



**PRESS RELEASE: 30 April 2015**

## **NYCGB ANNOUNCES NEW SUMMER FESTIVAL 1 JULY – 29 AUGUST 2015**

The National Youth Choirs of Great Britain are creating the biggest youth choral festival in the UK: NYCGB Summerfest

The inaugural NYCGB Summerfest 2015 will feature more than five hundred young singers performing in seven counties over the space of two months, bringing a Summerfest event within easy reach of 13 million people around the UK. NYCGB's commitment to showcasing new music is maintained through world premieres of new works by Jonathan Dove, Nico Muhly and Pete Churchill, while the summer festival ethos of open creativity is honoured by collaborations with the National Youth Jazz Orchestra, Crioch Quartet folk ensemble and youth bands and choirs from County Durham. NYCGB's ongoing efforts to extend nationwide access to choral music are supported by the offer of £5 tickets to under 25s for many events, while selected performances in this and future Summerfests target areas of low choral engagement in the UK through partnerships with local Music Education Hubs.

NYCGB Director Ben Parry said, "NYCGB is passionate about getting as many people as possible in the UK to experience great choral music. Summer festivals are synonymous with openness, inclusivity and an enjoyable atmosphere. By creating NYCGB Summerfest, we aim to raise awareness of NYCGB's work around the UK, to encourage an ever wider audience to experience choral music, and to inspire the next generation of choral singers."

### **National Youth Chamber Choir and National Youth Jazz Orchestra**

**'The Play's The Thing'** Wednesday 1 July, 7.30pm, Southwark Cathedral

As part of the City of London Festival, the National Youth Chamber Choir and National Youth Jazz Orchestra present a Shakespeare programme which includes the world premiere of *Journey's End* by Pete Churchill co-commissioned by City of London Festival and BRASS 2015. The programme also includes Shakespeare settings by Ben Parry, Janet Wheeler, Ralph Vaughan Williams, Ward Swingle, Nils Lindberg and the young British composer Owain Park.

### **National Youth Chamber Choir and Durham County Music Service Ensembles**

**'Play It Again'** Thursday 16 July, 7.30pm, BRASS: Durham International Festival, Durham Gala Theatre  
The National Youth Chamber Choir joins forces with Durham County Youth Choir, Darlington Youth Choir and Durham County Youth Big Band for a re-worked performance of the Shakespeare programme and Pete Churchill's *Journey's End*.

### **National Youth Boys' Choir**

**'Cantus'** Saturday 1 August, 3pm, Tonbridge School Chapel, Tonbridge

The National Youth Boys' Choir (incorporating Cambiata Voices) is conducted by Greg Hallam and Niall Crowley in a programme of sacred masterworks from the Middle Ages to the present day including works by Hildegard von Bingen, Guillaume de Machaut, Thomas Tallis, Antonio Vivaldi, Joseph Haydn, Felix Mendelssohn, Maurice Duruflé and Moses Hogan.

#### **National Youth Training Choir and Crioch Quartet**

**'Looking West'** Saturday 15 August, 6pm, Truro Cathedral

Conducted by Robert Isaacs and Chris Hann, the National Youth Training Choir performs new folk arrangements based on West Country heritage by the Crioch Quartet. The Crioch Quartet is formed of musicians Niopha Keegan, Will Lang, Colin Nicholson and Andy Watt and combines vocals, fiddle, bodhran, guitars and accordion. The programme also includes music from the 'Far West': New World cathedral polyphony, early American shape-note music, spirituals and barbershop music.

#### **National Youth Girls' Choir and National Youth Chamber Choir**

**'Antiphon'** Saturday 22 August, 3pm, Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford

The National Youth Girls' Choir and the National Youth Chamber Choir present the world premiere of Nico Muhly's eight settings for upper voices of poetry by Robert Louis Stevenson, commissioned by Aldeburgh Music as part of the ongoing 'Friday Afternoons' project. 'Friday Afternoons' was launched in November 2011 as part of the centenary celebrations of Aldeburgh Music's founder, the composer Benjamin Britten. This concert also includes the world premiere of Jonathan Dove's *Antiphon*, a setting of text by George Herbert commissioned by NYCGB, and a rare performance of Britten's *Voices for Today*. The concert is conducted by Esther Jones, Rachel Staunton and Ben Parry.

#### **National Youth Choir**

**'Elemental'** Friday 28 August, 7.30pm, Snape Proms, Snape Maltings

The National Youth Choir makes its Snape Proms debut under conductors Greg Beardsell and Ben Parry with a programme inspired by the elements including J.S. Bach's *Der Geist Hilft Unser Schwachheit Auf*, William Matthias' *May Magnificat*, Antoine Brumel's *Gloria from Missa 'Et ecce terrae motus'*, and Veljo Tormis' *Sügismaastikud*. The concert concludes with Morten Lauridsen's *Six 'Fire Songs' on Italian Renaissance poems*, Ben Parry's *Flame*, John Casken's *Uncertain Sea*, Paul Mottram's *Falls* and Anders Edenroth's *Water*. The National Youth Choir first performed *Uncertain Sea*, a setting of poems by Northumbrian poet and historian Katrin Porteous, in August 2014 at the Sage Gateshead. Anders Edenroth's *Water* is a new commission written specially for the choir premiered earlier this month at the National Youth Choir's concert at Queen Elizabeth Hall.

#### **National Youth Training Choir**

**'Unleashed'** Saturday 29 August, 7.30pm, Lincoln Cathedral

NYCGB Summerfest 2015 concludes with National Youth Training Choir's performance of a programme dedicated to contemporary choral music on themes of release and freedom, featuring works by Eric Whitacre, Ēriks Ešenvalds, Tarik O'Regan, Alexander Campkin, Valentyn Silvestrov, Neil Thomas Smith, Toby Young and American film arranger J.A.C Redford. The concert is conducted by Dominic Peckham and Adam Treadaway.

[nycgb.org.uk/summerfest15](http://nycgb.org.uk/summerfest15)

#### **Tickets**

National Youth Chamber Choir / 1 July

Via City of London Festival/Barbican: £20, £15, £10, £5 (booking fees apply)

020 7638 8891 [www.barbican.org.uk/](http://www.barbican.org.uk/)

National Youth Chamber Choir / 16 July

Via Durham Gala Theatre: £10 (booking fees apply)

03000 266600 [www.galadurham.co.uk/](http://www.galadurham.co.uk/)

National Youth Boys' Choir / 1 August

Via Tonbridge Box Office: £7, £5 U25s (booking fees apply)

01732 304241 <http://www.boxoffice.tonbridge-school.co.uk/home/>

National Youth Training Choir / 15 August

Via Hall For Cornwall: £12, £10 concessions, £5 U25s (booking fees apply)

01872 262466 [www.hallforcornwall.co.uk/](http://www.hallforcornwall.co.uk/)

National Youth Girls' Choir + National Youth Chamber Choir / 22 August

Via Tickets Oxford: £7, £5 U25s (booking fees apply)

01865 305305 <http://www.oxfordplayhouse.com/ticketsoxford/>

National Youth Choir / 28 August

Via Aldeburgh Music: £20, £17, £14 Prom £6.50 (booking fees apply)

01728 687110 <https://tickets.aldeburgh.co.uk> (from 21 May 2015)

National Youth Training Choir / 29 August

Via Lincoln Cathedral Shop: £12, £10 concessions, £5 U25s (booking fees apply)

01522 561644 <http://www.lincolncathedral.com/shop/>

#### **Notes to Editors**

##### **National Youth Choirs of Great Britain**

The National Youth Choirs of Great Britain is a registered charity and exists to discover and foster exceptional musical talent, to provide inspirational teaching and guidance, to extend musical opportunities to young people from all communities and backgrounds and to thrill audiences with passionate and innovative music-making. The organisation comprises five choirs with a total of approximately 750 singers: the National Youth Boys' Choir (incorporating Cambiata Voices; both for ages 9-15) the National Youth Girls' Choir (10-15), the National Youth Training Choir (13-18), the National Youth Choir (16-24) and the National Youth Chamber Choir (18-25). Entry to all five ensembles is determined by annual open and internal auditions, while members of the National Youth Choir are subject to annual re-auditions. In 2014, NYCGB performed concerts in Birmingham Town Hall, Coventry Cathedral, Leeds Town Hall (broadcast on BBC Radio 3), Sage Gateshead and Royal Festival Hall including collaborations with Shlomo, Southbank Sinfonia, the Crioich Quartet and the Royal Academy of Music. 2015 brings concerts in Queen Elizabeth Hall, Truro, Lincoln and Coventry Cathedrals and the Sheldonian Theatre, collaborations with The Real Group, Crioich Quartet and the National Youth Jazz Orchestra, and the launch of a major new professional development scheme, the NYCGB Fellowship Programme. The NYCGB's widening regional engagement work has led to successful new recruitment and workshop initiatives in Cornwall and West Cumbria, with new partnerships in Suffolk, Manchester, Leeds, Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire envisaged for 2015.

[www.nycgb.org.uk](http://www.nycgb.org.uk)

Twitter: @nycgb

Facebook: facebook.com/nycgbmusic

**For further press information please contact:**

**Rebecca Driver Media Relations**

**Tel: 020 7247 1894**

**Email: [rebecca@rdmr.co.uk](mailto:rebecca@rdmr.co.uk) | [nasarene@rdmr.co.uk](mailto:nasarene@rdmr.co.uk) | [emily@rdmr.co.uk](mailto:emily@rdmr.co.uk)**